

A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been identified in the Wuhan region, China. Most patients have fever and respiratory complaints. Chinese authorities are investigating the virus and the source of the infections. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the outbreak of 2019-nCoV constitutes a PHEIC, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The Netherlands is well prepared for this new phase.

Number of patients

The Chinese health authorities have reported thousands of laboratory-confirmed patients in China. More than a hundred patients have died as a result of the virus. Most of the patients are from the Wuhan region or have been in the Wuhan region. The novel coronavirus has also been found in various other countries across the globe. For the most current information, check the [realtime data](#) or please visit the website of the [European Center for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (ECDC) or [World Health Organization](#) (WHO).

Symptoms novel coronavirus

Patients infected with the novel coronavirus have a fever and respiratory symptoms. These symptoms can include coughing, rhinitis, sore throat or pneumonia. The novel coronavirus is different from the known human coronaviruses.

Ik ben ziek. Kan dat het nieuwe coronavirus zijn?

De meeste patiënten met het nieuwe coronavirus komen uit de regio Wuhan of zijn in de regio Wuhan geweest. Mensen die in Nederland verkouden zijn of longklachten hebben, hoeven zich geen zorgen te maken dat ze het nieuwe coronavirus hebben. Zeker niet als ze niet recent in het vasteland China, met uitzondering van Taiwan, Macau en Hongkong zijn geweest. De kans is veel groter dat mensen gewoon griep hebben of een ander verkoudheidsvirus.

Contagiousness

The disease is transmitted from human to human. Exactly how contagious the virus is and how quickly it spreads is not well known. The WHO and Chinese authorities are closely monitoring the outbreak. In the coming period, more information will become available regarding the contagiousness of the new virus. Countries are applying infection prevention and control measures.

Likelihood of novel coronavirus in the Netherlands

It is possible that someone in the Netherlands may become infected with the virus. It will probably be someone who has recently been in the mainland of China, apart from Taiwan, Macau and Hongkong. Or it could be someone who has had contact with someone who has been infected with the novel coronavirus. In Germany, a number of people became infected with the novel coronavirus after contact with a patient.

Preparedness in the Netherlands

RIVM National Institute for Public Health and the Environment informs Dutch infectious disease doctors on the state of affairs and developments concerning the novel coronavirus. Erasmus University Medical Center (Erasmus MC) and RIVM have tests available to determine whether a patient has been infected by the virus. There are protocols in place, describing how to take care of a patient with complaints.

We are monitoring the situation with international partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Center for Disease Protection and Control (ECDC). In the Netherlands, General Practitioners, infectious disease specialists, Municipal Public Health Service (GGD) and microbiological laboratories all work together to combat infectious diseases, such as the novel coronavirus. RIVM has convened an Outbreak Management Team (OMT) that consists of infectious disease experts. The OMT advises the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

Heeft het zin om je preventief te testen als je terugkomt uit China?

Nee, want dat geeft geen zekerheid. Mocht je besmet zijn met het virus, dan is er de eerste dagen nog onvoldoende virus in het lichaam. De test toont dan nog niet aan dat je besmet bent met het nieuwe coronavirus. Daarom testen we pas op aanwezigheid van het virus als mensen klachten hebben.

Travellers

Momenteel wordt het sterk afgeraden om te reizen naar Wuhan of andere steden in de provincie Hubei. Voor de rest van China geldt het advies om hier alleen naar toe te reizen als dat noodzakelijk is. Bekijk hier het actuele [reisadvies van de WHO](#). People who have travelled the mainland of China, apart from Taiwan, Macau and Hongkong in the last two weeks and have a fever and respiratory symptoms (coughing, rhinitis, sore throat or pneumonia) can contact their GP. Before you go, please call ahead and mention your recent travel and your symptoms.

Last update: 7 February 2020